

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of January 20, 2011**

The January meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at Maury Commons, Suite 111. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Tim Duffy, George Foster, Beatrice Paolucci, Barbara Miller-Richards (arrived late), and Susan Tyler. Absent: Commissioners Brian Baker, Ken Kroko & Charles McDaniel. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi and Patricia Sparks.

- I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of December 9, 2010 were unanimously approved.

II. Public Comment:

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, asked the Commissioners to take over Riverfront Park as soon as possible. James commented that statements have been made in past meetings that any improvements to the park have to go through the Riverfront Task Force. He stated that the Riverfront Task Force has not met in a couple of years. If we wait on the task force, it may be awhile. James also suggested that more benches and recyclable bins be placed at the park.

- III. Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

Financial Report – December 2010

Sports Report – December 2010/January 2011

Leisure Report – December 2010/January 2011 Commissioner Paolucci asked why the pool was closed last year by the middle of August. Dr. Antozzi reported that due to funding/budget cuts we were asked to cut back on pool operation expenses. With the loss of our college lifeguards by mid August, it was determined that it would be cost effective to close mid August. Commissioner Tyler recommended staff to revisit the calendar dates for the upcoming year pool operations.

Follow-Up Report –December 2010

- IV. Noteworthy Dates:** The Commissioners reviewed upcoming programs and trips.

V. Old Business:

- A. Pathways** – Dr. Antozzi reported that in regards to the Rappahannock Heritage Trail, he, the City Attorney, Doug Fawcett, and Eric Nelson would be attending court on February 14, 2011 in reference to the Dowling easement. They will present why it is technically under the emergency category for eminent domain. Commissioner Paolucci asked the status of the Wheeler property. Dr. Antozzi reported that he e-mailed Mrs. Wheeler with the latest plan for that area showing that the pathway would not be crossing her property. He also offered to meet with her on site to discuss the pathway issue further. A couple of days later Mrs. Wheeler e-mailed the City Attorney saying that she had contacted her attorney because the pathway was crossing her property. The City Attorney has prepared a letter and is corresponding with the Wheeler's attorney.
- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Dr. Antozzi reported that construction has begun. He would e-mail the City Manager to see if he was aware that construction had begun.
- C. Riverfront Park** – Riverfront Park continues to be maintained and operated by Parks & Recreation. Dr. Antozzi reported that he has been working with George Solley on the interim improvements for the park. The City Manager asked that Parks and Recreation interface with the Riverfront Task Force before going forward. Recently, George Solley told Dr. Antozzi to tell the City Manager that the Riverfront Task Force agrees with all the items that we have listed for interim improvements that includes more benches.
- D. Park Entrance Signs** - Dr. Antozzi reported that staff has been looking at two types of arches to place at the City parks. In regards to Riverfront Park, the arches are removable when construction begins for phase II.
- E. Powhatan Park** – Dr. Antozzi reported that the City Manager's office has requested that we hire an engineer to provide a schematic design for the park. A special use permit is required to be submitted to the Planning Commission for their consideration for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Tyler asked that she go on record opposing the placement of playground equipment at that location.

VI. New Business:

Commission Concerns and Topics:

Commissioner Foster asked if anyone had researched the cost of lighting one of the pods at Dixon. Dr. Antozzi reported that it is not in the master plan.

Commissioner Tyler requested that the front desk personnel have some type of nameplate or tag to identity them. The hours of operation on the windows are printed in white. Once the white shade is pulled down, you cannot read the hours. Is there a reason why the windscreens at the tennis courts are down? Dr. Antozzi will inquire as to why the windscreens are down.

Commissioner Miller-Richards asked if there was any new information on the Surgi-Center acquiring a soccer field in exchange for the Barnes property. Dr. Antozzi reported that the Surgi-Center will not be purchasing the Barnes property and therefore the trade of a soccer field for the Barnes property will not happen.

Commissioner Paolucci asked about the proposed lighting issue at the Dog Park. Dr. Antozzi reported that Mike Costa has developed a flyer asking specific questions for the residents that would be affected by the light at the dog park. At the end of the month, Mike Costa will then meet with Dr. Antozzi and George Solley to review the comments. Dr. Antozzi stated that the responses will indicate what we should do, and he will make his recommendation to the City Manager.

Commissioner Duffy asked about the Recreation Commission vacancies. Dr. Antozzi reported that we still have one opening. Commissioner Duffy stated that he was approached by someone who is interested. Commissioner Duffy will direct the person to the web site to fill out the application to apply.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission


Dr. Robert Antozzi, Director


Date

Next Meeting February 17, 2011 at Maury Commons, Suite 111.